

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-14 are pending in the application.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6 and 9-14 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffmann (DE 10222292 A1) in view of Chen (US 6,905,401 B1). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Chen (US 6,905,401) was filed 07 May, 2004. The present application claims priority to German Patent Application Number 10352291.3, filed 08 November, 2003. Therefore, the Chen reference cannot be qualified as a valid reference applicable against the present application.

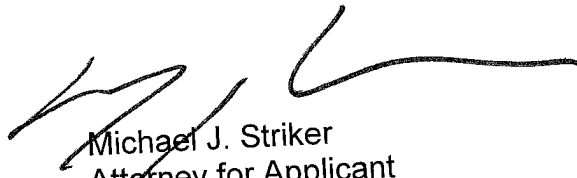
Regarding the Hofmann reference, the Examiner states that it is not clear whether Hofmann discloses form locking elements on the drive shaft. Hofmann alone does not disclose a drive shaft with a form-locking element formed onto the drive shaft in a non-cutting manner in order to connect the drive shaft in a form-locked manner in the circumference direction to a drive torque-transmitting mechanism, as presently claimed. Hofmann also fails to teach or suggest a drive device supported on the drive shaft by means of a spacer element. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time that the invention was made, would have had no motivation to modify Hofmann in such a way as to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', is written over the typed name and title.

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